(c) The reasons for time and cost over runs as indicate in answer to Part (a) of the question are being reviewed from time to time during the project execution including the Annual Plan discussions. Also detailed analyses are carried out while preparing the Revised Cost Estimates (RCE). These delays are also being taken into consideration by Government while according approval to these estimates.

(d) The steps taken to minimise the delays in the implementation of modernisation projects indicated in Part (a) of the answer are :

(i) The Project Organisation at the Plant and Corporate levels has been strengthened and Integrated Project Management Teams have been set up at the Plants under the respective Project Heads with adequate financial and administrative powers.

(ii) Earlier, Empowered Committees of Secretaries were set up for Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plant modernisation projects to expedite indigenous clearances, project imports, release of foreign exchange, etc.

(iii) Package-wise implementation based on turnkey concept has been adopted.

(iv) All efforts have been made by the Project Authorities to ensure coordination and supervision at different levels.

(v) Progress of work is being critically reviewed at regular intervals by the Plants/SAIL/Ministry with contractors/suppliers/consultants.

(vi) All activities pertaining to site, supply of equipment etc. are being monitored through the Network techniques wherein re-scheduling of various site activities is made possible to suit the site status.

(vii) Necessary financial assistance is given to the construction agencies, from time to time, in the interest of achieving faster progress in implementation.

Iron and Steel Mission

2875. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the current constitution and functions of the Iron and Steel Mission and its specific contributions towards the achievement of targets of technological inputs, production, etc. ;

(b) the deliberations of the Mission during the last three years ;

(c) whether the mission identified any constraints in the development of the steel sector in the liberalised regime, and for making the Indian steel sector globally competitive ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (d) In accordance with the recommendations of Science Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Steel given in its 6th meeting held on 23-1-1987, the Iron & Steel Mission (known as National Mission for Iron & Steel) was constituted. The Mission is being managed by Mission Management Board having representatives from different steel plants of SAIL, RINL, TISCO and also representatives from secondary steel producers with secretarial assistance being provided by a Member Secretary and a small secretarial staff at Ranchi.

The objective of the Mission is to contribute towards achieving technological performance of Indian Steel Industry equivalent to the best achieved elsewhere in stages by the end of the century through providing science and technology inputs on :—

(i) Basic research ;

(ii) Forward looking projects ; and

(iii) Technology demonstration in emerging areas.

The output of these efforts will complement the in-house R&D and plant modernisation efforts of the public and private sector steel companies.

The Mission had identified the following areas of research and development as a major thrust :—

(i) Upgradation of quality of raw materials & other key inputs.

(ii) Appropriate technologies to improve production and quality of iron and steel and ferro alloys.

(iii) Development of relevant technologies for steel making.

(iv) Development of relevant steel castings finishing technologies.

(v) Development of new special steel products.

Based on the above objectives, the mission had completed so far the following projects for the use by Iron & Steel industry in the country :—

— RAPSOL Project at BHU.

— Beneficiation of finely crushed coal by heavy medium cyclone cum oil agglomeration technique Phase-I (CFRI).

— Process development for conversion on non-coking coal/lignites/washery middlings to a coking agent by

solvent Refined Coal (SRC) technology (CFRI).

— Silicon reduction studies in blast furnace (IIT, Kanpur).

— Some fundamental studies of continuous casting of steel (IIT, Kanpur).

— Development of Mathematical model for continuous casting of thin strips (IIT, Kanpur).

— Studies on fluid flow and heat transfer in continuous casting mould (IISc, Bangalore).

— Experimental and analytical studies on formability of LPG grade steel, fatigue and impact behaviour of mild and micro-alloyed steels (IIT, Madras).

The Mission has not been posed with any specific problems from the iron and steel producers in the context of development of the steel sector in the liberalised regime. However, the Mission continues to identify such problem-areas in consultation with the Iron & Steel producers etc.

गुजरात में इस्पात परियोजनाएं स्थापित किया जाना

2876. **श्री चिमन भाई हरिभाई शुक्ल** : क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार को गुजरात सरकार की ओर से इस्पात परियोजनाएं स्थापित करने हेतु निजी क्षेत्र को आशय-पत्र जारी करने के संबंध में कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) उन निजी कम्पनियों के नाम क्या हैं जिनकी गुजरात सरकार ने सिफारिश की है;

(घ) सरकार की उस पर प्रतिक्रिया क्या है और उक्त आशय-पत्र की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव): (क) निजी क्षेत्र में इस्पात संयंत्रों की स्थापना करने के लिए आशय-पत्र जारी करने हेतु गुजरात सरकार से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है । औद्योगिक लाइसेंस के लिए केन्द्र सरकार की मंजूरी केवल तभी लेनी होती है जब परियोजना 1991 की जनगणना के अनुसार 10 लाख से अधिक की आबादी वाले शहरों की मानक शहरी क्षेत्र सीमा के 25 कि० मी० के भीतर स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव हो ।

(ख) से (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Export of Steel Rails by Bhilai Steel Plant

2877. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of countries to which steel rails are exported by Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) the number of rails exported in 1992-93 and the foreign exchange earned therefrom ; and

(c) the projected export figures of rails during 1994-95 by Bhilai Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Presently Bhilai Steel Plant is not exporting steel rails.

(b) There has been no export of steel rails by Bhilai Steel Plant during 1992-93 and 1993-94.

(c) There is no plan for export of steel rails by Bhilai Steel Plant during 1994-95.

Production of Pillets in Bhilai Steel Plant

2878. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during the later years of the controlled regime, production of pillets had not been in the conscious production programme of the SAIL plants ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and in what manner the country's requirements of mild steel pillets were being met ;

(c) what is the likely impact of increasing the production capacity of pillets of the Bhilai Steel Plant from 3 15 lakh tonnes to 5.35 lakh tonnes on the mini steel plants and the secondary producers as also on the profitability of the Bhilai Steel Plant ; and

(d) whether it will not be in the financial interest of the Bhilai Steel Plant to produce larger quantities of value added products in preference to production of pillets : if so, the detailed justification for changing the product mix of the Bhilai Steel Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The rolling mills in this country, many of whom belong to the small scale and medium scale sectors have surplus rolling capacity. Compared to the requirement, there is still a shortage of semis in the country which includes billets. Hence production of more billets by the RSP will help to meet the market demand and is not likely to have an impact on mini steel plants.